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bodied, and between 20 and 25 years of age. From statistics gathered from various sources Somer concludes that the morbidity for psychic diseases is 0.027 per cent. for German infantry, 0.033 for Austria, 0.04 for France, 0.05 for Italy, and 0.16 for England. Long service in the colonies, involving fatigue in bad climates, are regarded as the cause of the high percentage for English soldiers. Psychic diseases are strikingly more frequent among officers than private soldiers. All these differences, however, between military and civil liabilities, are reduced almost to nothing in time of peace. The prevalent form of nervous disease resulting from war is paralysis, due to psychic and somatic exhaustion. Not only is war so deleterious in this respect that greater facility of exemption should be allowed those predisposed, but the prognosis of psychoses, due to active army service, is more unfavorable than for similar symptoms originating in civil life. In examining those entering the army, closest scrutiny should be given to the heredity and earlier life, with a view of reducing the too large percentage of military psychoses.

Die punctförmig begrenzte Reizung des Froschrückenmarkes. W. SIRO-TININ. Arch. f. Anat. u. Physiol. 1887. pp. 154.

It was known from careful series of investigations that when a stimulus is applied to the central end of the spinal cord, regular movements in the limbs are caused by means of nerves of deeper origin belonging to the lateral, and probably parts of the anterior tracts. Conversely stimulus of the lower end of cross-sections of the cord causes reflex movements by means of motor nerves from roots above. Finally it is known that a very brief stimulus of the ganglion column of the anterior horn causes strong and prolonged tetanizing effect in the nerves that originate here. The author, working under Ludwig's direction, devised the following ingenious and more exact method of extending our knowledge of the cord. The cord of the frog was well exposed from behind along most of its length. A sewing needle of smallest size was sharpened for three mm., with a lancet-formed blade, and of such size that the half of an average cord could afford room for ten thrusts, side by side. An average stab of one-tenth of a millimetre in depth would cut or displace sixty fibres. The effects of these lesions were recorded on three muscles, the illeopsoas, semitendinosus and gastrocnemius. Of these the first was most sensitive from the second to the fourth vertebra, where its sensitiveness culminated and below which it rapidly declined. The second began to increase with the third and reached its maximum at the fifth vertebra, and the last reached a maximum of 100 per cent. at the seventh vertebra, where that of the first had sunk to 38. Almost the same law was observed, when, instead of sensitiveness, the height of the contraction of the muscles, or the order in time in which they began to contract, was observed. More complicated were the comparative results of the lateral stimulus of the posterior and anterior halves of the cord at different attitudes. Electrical stimuli were also applied with similar results. Incidentally an important observation was made that indicated a peculiar relation of the most outer part of the lateral column, the stimulus of which regularly affected the muscles of the same side, indicating that if the grouping is the same by mammals as

in the frog, these fibres cannot belong to pyramidal tracts. This result is incomplete and further results in the study of localization are expected by refinements of this method, and by applying it to the cord and perhaps even to the medulla of mammals.

Note on the Special Liability to loss of Nouns in Aphasia. By MARY PUTNAM JACOBI, M. D. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.* N. Y., Feb., 1887.

From the record of one hundred and sixteen cases seventeen were found by the author to have lost only the memory or the power to employ nouns. Children are often said to learn nouns first, and they should therefore be most deeply organized, and, on the common theory of devolution, the last to disappear. The records of autopsies shed no light on partial as distinct from total aphasia. Hence the author turns to the great discussions which have raged about the psychology of the naming process. Of course ideas are not held from the author's standpoint to have anything archetypal about them in the sense of Plato or the scholastic realists, but to be gradually formed by the fusion of visual, tactual and other impressions. For this product the terms *conception* and even *mental image* may be used by alienists so strictly as to realize the ever-lurking danger of realistic tendencies. The author agrees with Hughlings Jackson that a method which is founded on classifications which are partly anatomical and physiological, and partly psychological, confuses the real issues, and with Whitney that a word is simply the survival of the fittest among a variety of resources (gestures, etc.) for effecting the same purpose, viz. : fixing the mental attributes of an object, but prefers to use molecular and anatomical methods and terms, and considers that physiology on the whole favors nominalism. The author infers that the reason nouns are likely to be lost first and easiest in progressive aphasia is because they are most easily replaced by visual images, and adds in the last paragraph that it had been "suggested by a friend" that abstract nouns ought to be longest retained, and concludes that it would be interesting to test this suggestion. The suggestion has been made before, but not that we remember tested. If true, it does not seem to us sufficient to account for those strange cases of what Gairdner calls "brain intoxication for one word," at least not for those rare cases in which neither showing the object nor repeating the name will enable the patient to utter the name, where in Kussmaul's phrase the impressive as well as the expressive tract is interrupted. Is it not as possible that in the cases of those persons who forget or cannot speak their own names or that of their friends, or place of residence, but still use abstract and more recently acquired terms, the former have become more automatic or relegated to lower or more isolated centres, and are less widely irradiated by association, and so can be more cleanly eliminated by focal lesions. The author's treatment of the subject is at least broad and suggestive.

The Human Color-sense Considered as the Organic Response to Natural Stimuli. *Journal of Ophthalmology.* September, 1866.

Retinal Insensibility to Ultra-violet and Infra-Red Rays. *Ibid.* December, 1886. L. WEBSTER FOX, M. D. and GEO. M. GOULD, A. B.

The worship of sun, light and fire is the theological, the theory of either waves and specific energy of retinal fibres is the metaphysical stage in the study of light. But no study of phenomenon